

DIVISION: FORMS 1 - 1V
AGE GROUP: 12 years plus

S E R I E S: CURRENT AFFAIRS
PROGRAMME (5): "The Gemini Twins"

RECORDING TIME:

TRANSMISSION: Wednesday, June 9, 1965 (2.46 - 2.58 p.m.)

SCRIPTWRITER: Mr. Robert Moore, Professor, University of Guyana.

NARR: Hello boys and girls,

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On Monday while you were just finishing off your holiday, a space-capsule carrying two men dropped into the Atlantic ocean. In a very short time as the space capsule floated on the waves a helicopter stopped over the capsule and picked the two men up. They were taken to an air-craft carrier and the men on the ship waved a loud, long welcome to them. When the two men got on board the ship they were asked how they were - "O in excellent condition, they said, and very hungry too". Of course you know who I am talking about, don't you? I am talking about America's two spacemen - Major James McDivitt and Major Edward White. These men had been floating 150 miles above the Earth for ninety-seven hours - or four days and of course they were both a bit hungry after just eating capsule and pills to keep them going.

Naturally the Americans were very pleased. You see, boys and girls, there's a sort of race between the Americans and the Russians about which one of them will get furthest in outer space - and of course who will ^{put men on} get first to the moon. So each country is very pleased when it gets a little ahead of the other one.

/Well, let's see now.....

Well, let's see now why the Americans were so pleased with their two astronauts - that's what you call those people who take the risk of going into outer space. First of all this was the first time the Americans had been able to keep a space ship in orbit - that means going round the world for as ~~much~~ ^{many} as four days. Up to this time the United States had managed to keep their space ships in orbit for a little over fifty-eight hours - that's of course two days and ten hours. But there's something more important than that. You notice, boys and girls, that there were two men in the space capsule not one. The rocket had to be big enough to carry two men and all the other machines besides - you know for keeping in touch with the earth, sending messages and so on. Now this is the longest time two men have spent in space together. The Russians have not yet kept two men up for so long and so the Americans feel that they have got a little ahead of the Russians here.

But there's still something much more important that we haven't said a word about yet - When the space capsule was moving round in orbit - that is round the world - Edward White one of the astronauts opened the door and stepped outside. Stepped isn't perhaps the right word - for after all there was nothing to stand on out there - just empty space. Of course he was tied to the moving capsule by nylon cord. Why ~~didn't~~ he fall down - Well you see in empty space you can neither fall up nor down - There's no gravity so you just float around. You have something to move you or

/pull you.....

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pull you along. When Edward White stepped out of his capsule - he stayed outside for twenty minutes. Here again this is the first time a man has spent as much as twenty minutes outside a space ship. In March a Russian astronaut spent ten minutes outside his space ship. It must have been fun out there because Edward White had to be told several times to come back in - he seemed to be enjoying it so much outside. But there's something else. He didn't go out empty handed - he carried an oxygen space gun - you know why? That was to help him to move about a little. Without that he would merely be following the path of the space ship. This again is the first time a man has been able to move about in space without just following the line of the space ship.

Of course things are not going to stop there. In August the Americans hope to send two more men into orbit for seven days. And you can be sure the Russians will try to beat the record set last week-end before August. The experts tell us that by 1969 men should be making their first trip to the moon - My Word! That's in only four years time! First they hope to send a rocket without men - this will act as a base for the second rocket which will carry men. This will mean that when they want to come back to earth they have two rockets or put it another way - two chances of getting back home.

If I were you I would keep finding out about what's happening in outer space - for as they get nearer and nearer to the moon it will become more interesting, more exciting and

/of course more.....

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of course more dangerous. In a few years time you'll
be seeing pictures of the moon - made on the moon - and
you'll be reading books about it by men who've been there.

Exciting isn't it!

So long till next week.

OPR:

PLAY THEME: